

=====

ST. LAWRENCE'S HOSPITAL

BODMIN, CORNWALL

---

# First Annual Report

OF THE

## St. Lawrence's Hospital Management Committee

---

(COVERING THE PERIOD 5th JULY 1948, TO 31st MARCH, 1950)

*together with Reports of :*

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

CHAPLAINS and

COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL

FOR THE YEAR

1949



22501343427

ST. LAWRENCE'S HOSPITAL  
BODMIN, CORNWALL

---

# **First Annual Report**

OF THE

**St. Lawrence's Hospital  
Management Committee**

---

(COVERING THE PERIOD 5th JULY 1948, TO 31st MARCH, 1950)

*together with Reports of :*

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

CHAPLAINS and

COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL

FOR THE YEAR

1949

**WELLCOME  
LIBRARY**

Ann Rep

WX28

.BE5

B66L42

1949

## ST. LAWRENCE'S HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

---

### *Chairman :*

MRS. M. F. WILLIAMS, Caerhays Castle, Gorran (appointed for the period ending 31. 3. 50.).

### *Other Members :*

F. H. Cleveland, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., The Eaves, Bodmin.

Miss J. A. Foster, J.P., Park Hill House, Pound Lane, Bodmin.

Nancy Lady Vivian, O.B.E., Windrushes, Treyarnon Bay.

(Appointed for the period ending 31/3/50).

H. I. Dingle, Esq., J.P., L.D.S., St. Gurons, Bodmin.

C. G. T. Jago, Esq., Devonian, Wadebridge.

F. James, Esq., Escot, Treneague, St. Stephens, St. Austell.

N. S. Lyne, Esq., Dunheved, Bodmin.

(Appointed for the period ending 31/3/51).

P. W. Bunney, Esq., J.P., 3, Barn Lane, Bodmin.

S. M. Coleman, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., St. Lawrence's Hospital,  
Bodmin.

Miss D. M. B. Lethbridge, Tregeare, Nr. Launceston.

Sir John Molesworth St. Aubyn, Bart., Pencarrow, Washaway, Bodmin.

(Appointed for the period ending 31/3/52).

---

### *Secretary to the Management Committee :*

W. Stanley Smith, M.B.E., F.H.A., A.R.San. 1.

# OFFICERS

(as at 31st December, 1949).

---

## MEDICAL STAFF :

*Medical Superintendent :—*

STANLEY M. COLEMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M.

*Deputy Medical Superintendent :—*

JAMES B. DEDMAN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.M.

*Senior Assistant Medical Officer :—*

R. M. ELLISON, M.B. CH.B.

*Assistant Medical Officers :—*

E. FELDMESSER, M.D. (Vienna). S. PRUS, MED.-DIPL. (LWOW).

## VISITING MEDICAL STAFF.

*Physician*

C. T. ANDREWS, M.D., F.R.C.P.

*Ear Nose and Throat Surgeon*

M. R. SHERIDAN, M.B., B.CH., F.R.C.S.E.,  
D.L.O.

*Ophthalmologist*

A. GERALD EAST, B.A., M.B., B.CH.

*Pathologist*

F. D. M. HOCKING, M.SC., M.B., B.S., F.I.C.

*Surgeon*

F. H. CLEVELAND, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*Anaesthetist*

H. CHILLINGWORTH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*Dental Surgeon*

H. DINGLE, L.D.S.

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

*Secretary and Finance Officer*

W. STANLEY SMITH, M.B.E, F.H.A., A.R.SAN I.  
*Supplies Officer (also Deputy Secretary and Deputy Finance Officer)*

G. E. H. WEST, A.H.A.

*Accountant*

J. C. RILEY, A.H.A., A.C.A.

*Matron*

MISS A. M. HORSWILL, S.R.N., R.M.P.A.

*Head Male Nurse*

J. DEWHURST, S.R.N., R.M.P.A.

## CHAPLAINS.

*Church of England*

REV. L. J. CARTER, M.A., D.D.

*Nonconformist*

REV. G. GREGORY

*Roman Catholic*

REV. FATHER A. P. BYRNE, C.R.L.



# ST. LAWRENCE'S HOSPITAL, BODMIN.

27th March, 1950.

## First Report of the Hospital Management Committee.

The first report of the Management Committee covers the period 5th July 1948 to 31st March 1950. Future reports will be produced annually.

The Management Committee held its first meeting on 31st May 1948 and thereafter regularly on the last Monday of the month. Special meetings were held on two occasions to consider urgent administrative matters.

There are four sub-committees dealing with discharge of patients, finance, works and buildings and farms.

The main problem confronting the committee at the time of the take-over was not one which could be solved easily. This is an old Hospital, most of the buildings having been erected over 80 years ago. The original buildings (still in use) were erected in 1820.

A modernisation scheme launched by the Visiting Committee of the Cornwall County Council prior to the appointed day is now being dealt with by the Regional Hospital Board and it is hoped that part of the scheme will be commenced during the financial year 1950/51.

The scheme, in order of priority as follows, provides for the erection of new buildings, modernisation of some existing buildings and the demolition of certain old buildings :—

1. Staff Hostel and Matron's Bungalow.  
Laundry.  
Houses for Deputy Medical Superintendent and Senior Assistant Medical Officer.
2. Admission Hospital  
Convalescent Villas.
3. Sick Hospital.  
Modernisation of Rashleigh and Kendall Buildings.  
Modernisation and extensions of Administrative Sections of Foster Building.
4. New detached Villas and Pavilions.  
Adaptation of Male Staff Hostel.
5. Modernisation of Ward Units and Foster Building.
6. Demolition of old buildings.

### GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND EQUIPMENT.

Much has been done during the period under review to improve the interior of the existing accommodation. Extensive internal painting of wards has been carried out and furniture and equipment have been renewed as far as approved estimates will allow.

## FARMS AND GARDENS.

Under the capable management of the Farm Bailiff, Mr. C. D. Cradock, and the Head Gardener, Mr. R. Wyman, the Farms and Gardens have continued to supply the hospital with adequate quantities of fresh vegetables, fruit and milk. In addition we have been in the happy position of being able to sell potatoes and milk surplus to requirements.

## MEDICAL AND NURSING.

We continue to receive good reports from Official Visitors on the treatment of the patients and are pleased to record our high appreciation of the excellent work being carried out by Dr. S. M. Coleman and his staff of Psychiatrists. This work is described in more detail in the report of the Medical Superintendent.

## ADMINISTRATION.

In directing policy the Committee is fortunate in having six members of the previous Visiting Committee to provide valuable experience gained over several years contact with the Hospital, and the addition of new members has strengthened the committee.

Their knowledge of local government and general hospital work has been very helpful.

The changeover on the appointed day was effected smoothly without adversely interfering in any way with the treatment of the patients. This is due in no small measure to the team spirit existing among the medical and administrative officers of the hospital.

Mr. W. S. Smith was appointed Secretary to the Management Committee, Finance Officer and Supplies Officer and is responsible under the Medical Superintendent for the details of administration.

Owing to the increased work of his department it was decided to relieve Mr. Smith of the responsibility for supplies and Mr. G. E. H. West was appointed Supplies Officer in November 1949, and to hold in addition the posts of Deputy Secretary and Deputy Finance Officer.

## CONCLUSION.

We wish to acknowledge with thanks the services of Dr. Coleman, Medical Superintendent, and his medical colleagues, Mr. W. S. Smith, Secretary, and other officers.

W. S. SMITH,  
Secretary to the Management  
Committee.

M. F. WILLIAMS,  
Chairman of the Management  
Committee.



# Annual Report of the Medical Superintendent.

ST. LAWRENCE'S HOSPITAL, BODMIN.

FEBRUARY, 1950.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the 130th Annual Report of the Hospital for the year ended 31st December 1949 together with a table showing the admissions, discharges and deaths with the mean Annual Mortality and proportion of recoveries per cent. on Admission.

## 1. STATISTICS.

### MOVEMENT OF POPULATION.

Subjoined is a table showing the movement of the Hospital population during the year :

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females	Total
On the books of the Hospital						
1st. Jan. 1949.				513	696	1209
Direct Admissions	229	294	523			
Indirect Admissions (excluding re-gradings)	2	4	6	231	298	529
Total under treatment.				744	994	1738
DISCHARGED						
<i>Recovered</i>	8	28	36			
<i>Relieved</i>	142	150	292			
<i>Not Improved</i>	24	54	78			
<i>Transferred</i>	1	54	55			
<i>Died</i>	48	53	101			
				223	339	562
Remaining on the books 31st December 1949				521	655	1176

CLASSIFICATION. The following table shows the classification and chargeability of the patients on the books of the Hospital on 31st December 1949

	Male.	Female.	Total
<i>Private Class</i> .....	9	18	27
<i>Health Service</i> .....	512	637	1149
<i>Total</i> .....	521	655	1176

ADMISSIONS. During the year 231 Males and 298 Females, 529 in all, were admitted. The Recovery and Relieved rate for the year, calculated on the direct admissions, was 62.7—65.5 for the Males and 60.5 for the Females.

The rate for the patients “ recovered ” or “ relieved ” for the previous 5 years is as follows :

	Males	Females	Total
1944	77.0%	85.1%	80.7%
1945	50.7%	70.6%	62.2%
1946	55.8%	55.7%	55.8%
1947	56.9%	62.9%	60.5%
1948	62.5%	64.9%	63.9%

Of the admissions 152 Males and 173 Females were Voluntary, and Temporary patients numbered 1 Male and 9 Females.

REGRADING OF STATUS.	Males	Females	Total
From <i>Voluntary to Certified</i>	1	—	1
<i>Temporary to Voluntary</i>	2	1	3
<i>Certified to Voluntary</i>	9	11	20

#### DISCHARGES.

	Voluntary			Temporary			Certified			Total		
	M	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
<i>Recovered</i>	7	24	31	—	—	—	1	4	5	8	28	36
<i>Relieved</i>	117	107	224	—	2	2	25	41	66	142	150	292
<i>Not Improved</i>	23	39	62	—	—	—	1	15	16	24	54	78
<i>Statutory</i>												
<i>Transfer</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	54	55	1	54	55
	147	170	317	—	2	2	28	114	142	175	286	461
At present “ On Trial.”							1	2	3	1	2	3
Returned from “ Trial ” during year							1	3	4	1	3	4

Money Allowances to the amount of £24 11 6 from the Charity Fund were made in the case of 6 patients discharged “ On Trial—”

Leave of Absence to the care of friends or relatives were granted to 21 men and 30 women.

#### DEATHS.

Voluntary			Temporary			Certified			Total		
M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
10	7	17	—	3	3	38	43	81	48	53	101

The death rate for the year, calculated on the number resident was 8.4.%—for male cases 9.2% and for Female 7.8%.

The death rate for the previous five years was as follows :

1944	10.6%
1945	10.5%
1946	8.9%
1947	13.3%
1948	9.8%

The average age at death for Male cases was 61.7 and for females 66.8. Twenty-four patients died over 75 years of age of whom 15 were over 80 years of age.

Post Mortem examinations were held in 12 male 4 female cases, or 25 per cent. and 6.9 per cent., respectively.

## 2. HEALTH AND TREATMENT.

### OUT PATIENTS CLINICS.

With the appointment of a fifth medical officer in 1948 it has been possible to extend the out-patient service in the county. In January 1949 a clinic was opened at the West Cornwall Hospital, Penzance. Two sessions are held each month. During the year 82 new patients were examined and there were 145 attendances. In September of this year a clinic was opened at Barncoose Hospital, Redruth. This clinic is held weekly. For the period of four months there were 37 new patients and 107 attendances. The clinic at Liskeard continues to operate once a month. For the year there were 40 new cases and 82 attendances. At the Truro clinic 267 new cases were examined and there were 410 attendances.

### LANINVAL HOUSE.

During the year 59 women and 61 men were treated at Laninval House. Sixty-one were treated by prolonged narcosis ; 14 had both narcosis and electrical treatment and 5 electrical treatment alone. Regarding recovery, 32 were much improved, 65 improved and 23 not improved. Of these last 16 were transferred to the main hospital.

### SPECIAL TREATMENT.

Of three patients treated by leucotomy, one was much improved and the other 2 remained unchanged. Eighty-three patients were given electrical treatment. Of these 46 were much improved, 15 improved, 22 unimproved. Prolonged narcosis was given to 51 patients. Twenty two were much improved, 17 improved and 11 unimproved. Malarial treatment was given in 4 cases. Two were much improved and 1 improved. A number of patients were also treated by modified insulin therapy.

### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY.

The total female patients employed was 334. These patients are employed as follows : 191 in the wards, 101 at Occupational Therapy, 21 in the kitchens, 12 in the laundry, and 9 in the Sewing Room. On the male side there has been an important move forward in the appointment of a whole-time occupational therapist. A total of 267 male patients are occupied. One hundred and twelve in the wards, 45 in various departments of the hospital, 33 in the occupational department, 53 in the gardens and 24 on the farm.

### OPEN WARDS AND PAROLE.

This has been extended during the year. At present three female and three male wards are run on the open-door system and it is hoped to extend this in the coming year. One hundred and twenty eight females and 164 males have ground parole. Of these 82 females and 38 men have town parole.

### AFTER CARE.

During the year a Welfare Officer has been appointed. His work has been of great value in sorting out domestic and work problems and in the general after-care of the patients who leave hospital.



## SOCIAL CLUBS.

A Social Club is run by Rev. Gregory for female patients and by Dr. Carter for the men. The average attendance is 50 females and 40 males. Recently there have been some joint meetings of the Clubs.

## CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN.

Dr. Andrews continues to attend fortnightly and, on an average 8 patients are examined.

## CONSULTANT SURGEON.

Three major operations were performed during the year.

## EAR, NOSE & THROAT DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Sheridan has attended each month and there have been 215 examinations.

## PATHOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dr. Hocking provides the following analysis of the work done in the laboratory :—

	1948	1949
<i>Urine</i> .....	750	800
<i>Fæces and rectal swabs</i> .....	7,856	13,799
BLOOD :—		
<i>Counts</i> .....	209	259
<i>Sugar</i> .....	30	54
<i>Syphilis</i> .....	371	398
<i>Urea</i> .....	3	6
<i>E.S.R.</i> .....	23	19
<i>Throat Swabs</i> .....	39	14
<i>Sputum</i> .....	23	28
<i>Cerebro-spinal fluid</i> .....	7	6
<i>Miscellaneous</i> .....	26	27

## RADIOLOGY.

Dr. Cleveland attends each week. There were 256 examinations.

<i>Chests</i> .....	113
<i>Barium Meals</i> .....	19
<i>Bones, fractures etc.</i> .....	91
<i>Skulls and other investigations</i> .....	33

## DENTAL DEPARTMENT.

The following are details of work carried out during the year :—

<i>Extractions</i> .....	399
<i>Inspections</i> .....	546
<i>Fillings, Scalings and other treatment.</i> .....	217

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Female	Male
<i>Tubercle</i> .....	4	6
<i>Dysentery</i> .....	6	31

## INQUESTS.

One inquest was held, the verdict was in accordance with medical evidence and the facts were reported to the Committee.

## 3. ENTERTAINMENTS.

A cinema performance is given each week and during the winter months there are fortnightly dances in Foster Hall. There have also been several concerts for patients during the year.

In the summer months about 50 patients visited Polzeath each week.

Christmas entertainment included the Patient's Annual Fancy Dress Ball, the Staff Dance, a Concert and the Workers' Tea Party. This year the staff produced three short plays which were greatly appreciated.

## 4. STAFF.

I regret to inform the Committee that Deputy Charge Nurse P. A. Wensley died on 6th August, 1949. He had been on the staff of the hospital for 25 years.

## APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES.

MRS. K. M. O'NEILL	Senior Assistant Matron.
MR. F. E. NUTT	Welfare Officer.
MR. J. W. S. THOMAS	Records Officer.
MR. T. W. KNOTT	Occupational Therapist.

## 5. OFFICIAL VISITS.

On the 12th October 1949, the Hospital was visited by two members of the Board of Control.

On the 30th June, 1949 the Service Patients were visited by Dr. H. W. Eddison.

On the 13th April, 1949 the Hospital was visited by Commander S. H. Tennyson on behalf of the the Ex-Services Welfare Society.

I have to thank my Medical colleagues on the Visiting and Resident Staff, the Officers, Sub-Officers and Members of the Staff of all departments for their loyal support, help and co-operation.

Finally I would thank you Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen for your help and advice.

I have the honour to be.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STANLEY M. COLEMAN,  
Medical Superintendent.



# ST. LAWRENCE'S HOSPITAL, BODMIN.

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHAPLAIN'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1949.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for the period of the year 1949 since I took up my duties as Chaplain on May 24th.

The patients have been regularly visited in their wards and at their work, with special attention to Laninval, the Reception, Convalescent, and Carew Wards, and the Infirmarys. A list of new patients is obtained daily and an effort is made to see them as soon as possible. All Church of England patients when leaving are commended to their parish priests. In a few cases the patients' homes have been visited.

The Sunday Services at 10.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. have been maintained. These take the form of Matins and Evensong respectively, except on the first Sunday in each month, when Holy Communion is celebrated at 10.30. An address is given at each of these Services. Other Services of Holy Communion have been arranged as follows: Second, fourth and fifth Sundays:—8 a.m., 3rd Sunday at 6 a.m. for members of the Staff, and at 7.45 a.m. at Laninval. Occasionally a Congregational Choir practice has been substituted for the Sunday Afternoon Service. A Service is held on every Thursday afternoon in Foster Infirmary at 3 o'clock, and on Sunday evenings an informal Talk and discussion is held at Laninval at 8.30.

On Christmas Eve a midnight celebration of the Holy Eucharist was arranged for members of the Staff. About 35 were present, and 17 communicated. The total number of Christmas communicants, including Staff and patients, was 65. The Lessons at the Service at 10.30 on Christmas morning were read by Mr. Smith.

The Harvest Festival was observed on September 18th; the Lessons at the 10.30 Service being read by Mr. Smith. On Remembrance Sunday a short Service was held around the Hospital Clock at 10.55 a.m., conducted both by the Anglican and Nonconformist Chaplains, the wreath being laid by the Medical Superintendent.

There have been 26 administrations of the Reserved Sacrament to sick or infirm patients unable to come to Church. One nurse, one male and one female patient, have been baptized, and two female patients have been baptized conditionally. Two Confirmation Services have been held in the Hospital Church, the first on Thursday July 21st by the late Bishop Holden, when one male and 5 female patients were confirmed; the second on Sunday, Sept., 4th by the Bishop of Truro, the candidates being one sister, 3 female nurses, and 2 members of the Kitchen Staff. The kindness and co-operation of our Bishop in the religious affairs of the Hospital are very greatly appreciated. One nurse and 3 male patients are at present under instruction for Confirmation by the Bishop in the Hospital Church on Sunday January 29th.

During the summer the Church Chancel was decorated and laid with a new carpet, the altar lengthened, and furnished with two brass candlesticks (kindly supplied by Canon Harmer) and a brass cross and flood lighting installed. A new altar frontal of blue and gold supplied by Messrs Wippell and Co., of Exeter was used for the first time at Christmas, and another new frontal, of red and gold, is on order and expected now at any time. The Vestry has also been re-organized. Five well known religious pictures have been hung in the Church. Literature displayed in the Church has been much appreciated and used by the patients.

A Social Club for male patients from the open wards and certain parole patients from other wards, is now in being. During the summer inter-patient's Cricket matches and bowls met their needs. In the winter months the programme has consisted of such varied activities as Billiards and Darts Tournaments, Whist Drives, Short Speeches by patients on their work or hobby, a Quiz, " Home-Made " Concerts, Educational Games, etc. A recent growth has been in the direction of mutual entertainment between male and female patients with the co-operation of the Nonconformist Chaplain.

From the Chaplain's point of view, the Social Club is particularly valuable in affording further excellent opportunities of getting to know some of the patients, especially the Convalescents.

I may say, in conclusion, that, although I entered upon the new post of Chaplain in this hospital in May with considerable searchings of heart, I have met with very great kindness and co-operation from the Medical Superintendent and the other doctors, the Secretary and his office staff, and generally from the members of the nursing, artisan, and Kitchen Staffs, that both my wife and I are very happy in our new work ; and that I find its growing demands increasingly satisfying and absorbing.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,

Your Obedient Servant,

LEONARD J. CARTER.



# ST. LAWRENCE'S HOSPITAL, BODMIN.

## NON-CONFORMIST CHAPLAIN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1949.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Report for the year 1949. To me the year has been a very active one, and there has been little time for anything except Hospital work. Yet it has been a year of pleasurable activity, and much of that pleasure has come from the fact that one has been trying to help people whose needs were very great. In the Hospital people are gathered from many homes and places, and we have, not only to provide an alternative for home life, but offer such helps as will enable them to return to their home and their work. In many cases that means a permanent home in the Hospital, while others make such improvement that they are able to leave.

I feel that much good work has been done for the first of these groups, especially the aged, and bed patients, and there is much appreciation, and gratitude, among them; but it is a different gratitude that is expressed by those who recover sufficiently to be discharged. They are happy because they came to the Hospital, and no words of theirs can adequately express what they feel about the work, and conditions here.

As Chaplains we have to make contact with people in all conditions, but except on rare occasions, we are welcomed as friends. On those occasions the hostility is due to the state of mind rather than anything that is willed.

I have gone in and out amongst the people during the past year. I have tried to be a friend to all, whatever their condition, or attitude or creed. I have tried to advise, and to encourage and console. I have prayed for them as they have expressed a desire for spiritual help. One cannot compute the positive benefits which result from all these activities, but there is ample evidence in the warmth of feeling that is expressed by the patients. I regard every patient as one needing help, and extend a helping hand to them.

On Sundays we assemble to worship God. Our being together means our minds are influenced together, and there is a marked unanimity during the fifty minutes we are together. That is apparent in the singing, and in the attention with which the discourses are followed. Patients have gathered in good numbers all through the year. I have set a high standard for Public Worship, and I think I may rightly claim, that in view of the nature of the circumstances in which we assemble, the Services compare favourably with any which are held outside of the Hospital.

There have been weekly meetings of the Women's Social Club, and the interest has been apparent in the way attendance has been maintained. I do not feel that the Social Club has succeeded in the way that was originally hoped. For some reason the Convalescent patients have never been gathered into it, and there is a tendency to

lose a patient when she becomes better able to contribute to the meetings. I confess to a little annoyance when I meet such people coming out on parole.

There appears to be a very welcome movement taking place among the patients in Ward 10, in the Foster Building. The facts suggest the ladies there desire to inaugurate a little social activity apart from the Club. They have been entertained by the male patients in Foster Hall, and they desire to entertain the men. There are a number of good artistes among them, and they have asked me to organise the Social evening for them. I feel this is a move which ought to be welcomed, and encouraged, and there may be appreciable results to report next year.

The meetings of the Social Club are enjoyable, and provide a welcome change from life in the Wards. I find I must accept conditions as they arise from week to week. I wish I had more patients who were capable of platform work. It would be a good work if we could build up a small Dramatic Group, a Ladies Choir, a mixed choir, and the like.

Library activity has demanded many hours of work, but I am happy because of what has been attained. My predecessor left things in a very bad state. There was no order in the arrangement of the books, many volumes were badly damaged, and there was no Index System. The books are now nicely assembled on shelves which extend all round the room, and there is a Card Index System containing 2365 volumes. That is as much as I have been able to accomplish. There are 920 other volumes in the library, and 1020 in the Book-cases in the Wards. The total number of books is about 4,250.

I have issued 1838 volumes from the library since June 14th, when I commenced keeping a record. I have repaired hundreds of books, and I feel deeply grateful in that I am now almost abreast of the repair work.

I have received the following books for the library. 120 from the Red Cross ; 140 from Bodmin Library ; £10 worth of books from the Marianne Bayley Worthington Trust ; 2 copies of the new Cornish Review, and a volume of poetry from Catto and Windus. Twenty one books were repaired for us at the Red Cross Library in London. I have also received a weekly copy of the Medical World.

The figures for the Library suggest a superabundance of books, but it is not really so. The rate of wear and tear is high, and the more books one has, the greater is the probability of having the particular volume that is asked for. I hope that all the shelves will fill up as the year proceeds.

I hope this brief Report of much activity will be acceptable to the Committee ; and I also hope and pray that I may be given the strength to work for needy people as I want to do.

I am,

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your faithful servant,

GEORGE GREGORY.



**Copy of REPORT made by TWO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL at their visit to St. Lawrence's Hospital, Bodmin, on the 11th and 12th October, 1949.**

It is exactly a year since this hospital was last visited on behalf of our Board, perhaps the outstanding event in this period has been the return of the 50 Women patients from Exeter City to the re-opened Female Wards of Digby's Hospital. This has resulted in a marked decrease in the over-crowding here.

The plans for the rebuilding and modernisation of this Hospital have now got to the stage where it is hoped to begin, early in 1950, the first portion of the new buildings. The estimates allow for the first third of the Nurse's Home, the first half of the new Laundry and for some new houses for the Medical and Nursing Staffs.

During the past year a determined effort has been made to overtake the arrears of interior redecoration and the day space of 9 wards has been painted throughout. In addition the central administrative block has been re-decorated. The improvement is marked. The opportunity has been taken to renew a number of out of date W.C.'s in Ward Sanitary Annexes but this work is by no means complete. In F. 9 a door into the garden, from the sick dormitory, has been made together with a ramp to enable beds to be wheeled out into the garden. This improvement was a boon to bed patients during the recent unusually fine summer.

In the redecorated wards new counterpanes are being provided and in some new curtains are to be hung. Here and there efforts at improving the furniture have been made, but the state of the Hospital furnishing is such that a very large amount of money would have to be expended before the standard was appreciably raised. Recently some attractive pictures have been acquired through the Red Cross Library Scheme and have been placed in two of the redecorated male wards.

The wards are well supplied with books and newspapers, but we were surprised at the lack of flowers and flowering plants in most of the wards. What there were appeared to have been supplied largely by patients' friends.

We hope that in the new laundry the facilities for sorting will enable the patients to enjoy the privilege of individual under-clothing and the better type patients to have their own private garments washed. Provision should be made for dry cleaning male suits and also for the pressing of those suits which have to be washed. The standard of clothing at this hospital is lower than it should be and the male dress in particular leaves much room for improvement. The present laundry is, we feel, the cause of much of our criticism as it is so inadequately equipped.

The occupation departments on both sides are doing good work. The smaller female centre is a long very narrow room. There are no windows and the skylights cannot be made to open. The ventilation in consequence is inadequate and there is no outlook of any kind.



We are told that the structure is such that windows would be difficult to put in but we feel that they are essential.

The Canteens are well stocked and popular ; that on the Female side is to be re-decorated and re-furnished and like that in the Male side will then make a pleasant cafe for use on visiting Days by patients and their friends. Canteen Vouchers to the value of 1/3d are now issued weekly to all workers.

Dinner to-day consisted of hot meat roll, cabbage and potatoes and bread with stewed apples and custard as pudding. It seemed an excellent meal. The draw back to it was the fact that it had to be served on cold plates. We were sorry to learn that the urgent need for economy has resulted in the elimination of a sum of £700 from the estimates which would have provided each ward kitchen to have a plate warming apparatus.

The patients in residence to-day number 1168 (519 M., 649 W.). Of these 196 are Voluntary and two are Temporary Patients. Twenty-nine patients (9 M., 20 W.) rank as Private Patients paying the full cost of accommodation and services. During 1948 there were 499 (211 M., 288 W.) direct admissions. As many as 311 of these were Voluntary and 3 were Temporary Admissions. In the same period there were 377 Departures or Discharges of whom 47 were regarded as Recoveries.

The present staff of nurses consists of 87 male and 59 full-time and 19 Part-time Female Nurses. Eleven men and 9 women are always on duty each night. Forty-seven of the men and 19 of the Women are certificated or registered as Mental Nurses.

The Mortality rate in this Hospital continues to be rather higher than the average for all the Mental Hospitals of England and Wales being 9.8% in 1948. In that year 114 patients died (44 M., 70 W.). Since the last visit 16 fractures have been recorded and 1 Inquest has been held.

At the moment 7 men and 4 women are regarded as Tuberculous. All of them are being nursed on verandahs in satisfactory conditions although the Male Verandah is not ideal. In 1948 there were 7 deaths from this complaint and 11 new cases were notified.

Dysentery is endemic here. In 1948 27 cases were notified and there is one active at the moment and there are a considerable number of carriers. In this period there were 5 new cases of Enteric and again there are carriers in the Hospital. These patients are properly segregated and Pathological investigation is thorough and continuous. Well over a thousand examinations are made every month and by these means a bacteriological check is made on every patient in the hospital every month.

The Infirmary Wards are satisfactory and it was gratifying to find very few patients in bed in these wards or elsewhere. A Sluice Room is being made off the Male Infirmary Ward, and we suggested that a hand basin with hot and cold water be fitted in the dormitory at the same time. This should also be done in the Female Infirmary Ward.

The Poison Cupboards we examined were in perfect order and are regularly inspected by the Pharmacist. The Clinical Records are orderly and well kept.

As all attempts to get a trained Psychiatric Social Worker failed a Welfare Officer was appointed and took up his duties in May. We were told that his services were proving very valuable.

Out Patients Clinics are held once a week at Truro and Redruth, twice a month at Penzance and once a month at Liskeard. A Clinical Meeting is held once a fortnight and alternating with this all the Medical Officers accompany the Consultant Physician on his fortnightly visit to the Hospital. We were told that there was no difficulty in obtaining the services of Specialists when they are needed.

We have much sympathy with the Medical and other staff at this hospital who carry out their duties so well in spite of the hampering effect of obsolete buildings and equipment. It will be some considerable time before the rebuilding and modernisation which is about to begin will have any marked effect upon the conditions under which they do their work. Dr. Coleman has as his Deputy Dr. Dedman. The remaining Medical Officers are Dr. Ellison, Dr. Feldmesser and Dr. Prus. The last named is an addition to the establishment since the last visit.

I. COFFIN DUNCAN,

E. N. BUTLER,

Commissioners of the Board of Control.









